

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00509 192159Z
ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621
INFO IAEA MISSION VIENNA 155

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0509

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA TECH PARM MS
SUBJ: IAEA - US - ROK SUSPENSION PROTOCOL, ARTICLE 2 ADDITION

REF: VIENNA 10521 AND PREVIOUS

1. SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL EMBOFFS HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MOST, ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU, DIRECTOR GENERAL BAEK YEONG-HAK, AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SYSTEM OF SAFEGUARDS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PARK KEUNG-SHIK-, CONCERNING ADDITION OF SENTENCE TO ARTICLE 2 OF IAEA DRAFT SUSPENSION PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD EXPLICITLY PRECLUDE EXPLOSION OF ANY NUCLEAR DEVICE. ACCORDING MOST OFFICIALS SENTENCE TO BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REAFFIRM THEIR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USES PRECLUDED BY ARTICLE X, PARAGRAPH (2), OF THE AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION INCLUDE USE FOR ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE OR FOR RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. END QUOTE.

2. AT RECENT MEETING WE SEEMED TO GET TO KERNEL OF PROBLEM WHEN BAEK TOLD POLCOUNS AND SCIATT THAT ROK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DISAGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF ADDITIONAL
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00509 192159Z

SENTENCE; THEY ACKNOWLEDGE NEED FOR SUCH LANGUAGE IN WAKE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TEST. "MINISTERIAL LEVEL" ROKG HOWEVER, OBJECTS TO ROKS BEING SINGLED OUT IN IAEA CONTEXT. IN RESPONSE OUR EXPLANATION THAT THIS WAS NEW POLICY WHICH WE WOULD APPLY TO OTHERS IN FUTURE, THEY NOTED THAT SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA, BOTH TECHNICALLY MORE ADVANCED NATIONS, SIGNED SUSPENSION PROTOCOLS WITHOUT INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

AND THAT USE OF STATEMENT IN KOREA'S CASE COULD BE REGARDED AS DISCRIMINATORY. THEY THEN WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT U.S. AND IAEA COME UP WITH SOME SORT OF FORMULA WHICH WOULD APPLY UNIVERSALLY AND WHICH WOULD AFFORD ALL MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADHERE TO IDENTICAL CONDITIONS.

3. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY INDICATED ROKG MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SIGN A STRICTLY BILATERAL UNDERTAKING WITH U.S., IF WE WERE "REALLY INSISTENT" ON NEED FOR SUCH LANGUAGE. WHILE MOST OFFICIALS DID NOT SUGGEST ANY SPECIFIC BILATERAL MECHANISM PARK, WHO REPORTS TO BAEK, EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT INCORPORATION OF SUBJECT LANGUAGE IN US-ROK BILATERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE SPRING 1977 MEETING OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE CLEARED BY MOST AND MOFA MINISTERS THEY SAID, NOTING THAT THIS NOT YET DONE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE TWO COMMENTS ON THIS EXCHANGE: (A) WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE PRECEDENTS AND PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, ROK OBJECTIONS TO BEING SINGLED OUT, IF INDEED THEY HAVE BEEN, ARE UNDERSTANDABLE. IF FEASIBLE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND WAY TO MEET THEIR CONCERN ON THIS SCORE; (B) WHILE MOST OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY HAD NOT YET GOTTEN MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE FOR SUGGESTED BILATERAL APPROACH, IT CLEAR THAT DIRGEN BAEK AND DIRECTOR PARK HAD TALKED TO MINISTER CHOI PRIOR TO MEETING, AND WE DOUBT THEY WOULD HAVE BROACHED THIS IDEA WITHOUT SOME FORM OF GO-AHEAD. BELIEVE THAT IF WE AGREE ROKS WILL ACCEPT THIS APPROACH.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 00509 192159Z

5. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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